

DIGEST OF THE DECISIONS OF THE SUPREME COURT OF
THE UNITED STATES.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

*Resolutions of the State of Kentucky relative to a digest of the decisions of
the Supreme Court of the United States.*

FEBRUARY 16, 1844.

Read, and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

To the House of Representatives of the United States:

In compliance with the request contained in the accompanying letter from the Governor of the State of Kentucky, I herewith transmit certain resolutions, adopted by the Legislature of that State, "in relation to a digest of the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States."

JOHN TYLER.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *February 15, 1844.*

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY,
Executive Department, Frankfort, February 10, 1844.

SIR: Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly of this Commonwealth, I have the honor to transmit herewith, to your excellency, two copies of resolutions in relation to a digest of the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, with the request that you will lay the same before the two Houses of Congress.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. P. LETCHER.

To his Excellency JOHN TYLER,
President of the United States.

RESOLUTIONS in relation to a digest of the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Whereas, in the opinion of this Legislature, an enlightened judiciary is one of the greatest safeguards to liberty, and all the blessings of a free government; and as the constitution of the United States, the acts of Congress, and treaties made by authority of that constitution are binding, when made under the authority of that constitution; and as the decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, on all questions involving the expositions of the constitution, and all treaties and acts of Congress, are of binding authority in all the inferior tribunals of the United States, and in all the judicial tribunals of the States: therefore,

1. *Resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky,* That a more general diffusion of the decisions of the Supreme Court ought to be provided for by law.

2. *Resolved,* That, as the decisions of said court are voluminous, and cannot now be procured but at great expense, (if at all,) it is expedient that a digest of said decisions should be prepared by some competent person, at the public expense.

3. *Resolved,* That such a digest, so prepared, should be published at public charge, and distributed amongst all the judicial officers of the United States, and appellate judges, and judges of courts possessing general jurisdiction in the several States of this Union.

4. *Resolved,* That the Governor of this Commonwealth be requested to furnish the President of the United States with a copy of these resolutions, with a request that he lay before each House of Congress a copy thereof.

JNO. L. HELM,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MANLIUS V. THOMSON,

Speaker of the Senate.

Approved January 27, 1844.

R. P. LETCHER.

By the Governor:

JAMES HARLAN, *Secretary of State.*

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY,

Office of Secretary of State.

I certify that the foregoing are true copies of resolutions passed by the General Assembly of Kentucky, as the same remain on file in my office.

In testimony whereof, I, James Harlan, Secretary of State for the Commonwealth aforesaid, have set my hand and affixed my seal of office.

[L. S.] Done at Frankfort, this 29th day of January, A. D. 1844, and in the fifty-second year of the Commonwealth.

J. HARLAN, *Secretary of State.*